

XVI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, January 27-February 1 2008)

DECISION 17

CLIMATE CHANGE

Remembering decision 14 of the Fifteenth Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 2005);

Agreeing that we, the developing countries, are the most vulnerable to the negative impact of climate change, and that the poor and marginalized communities are even more vulnerable to these impacts, and that in our countries extreme climatic events have already been recorded with loss of lives and serious material damages that increase the level of poverty and make the economic growth of our nations more pressing;

Recognizing the need to increase the scale of global response to climate change promoting more participation of all countries according to their own capacities and national circumstances;

Concerned by the lack of concrete actions by developed countries that will fulfil their commitments, referring to technology transfer and financial support to address climate change and to give continuity, strengthen and increase the actions that as countries we have been taken to mitigate climate change;

Emphasizing, likewise, that it is in the global interest to adopt policies and measures for adapting to climate change in order to contribute to social development, economic growth and environmental protection, to which the matter must receive quick and sufficient attention related to financial support and technology transfer; and convinced that the Nairobi Action Plan on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change is an instrument that will facilitate the understanding and assessments of impacts related to climate change vulnerability and adaptation;

Taken note of the usefulness preparatory meetings for climate change negotiators of Latin America (Panama, Panama, October 20-21 2007) and the Alliance of Small Island States (Saint Kitts and Nevis, November 13-14, 2007) in the interest of the Region within the process of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change; jointly organized by UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention and

recognizing with satisfaction that several key positions of the Region were included in the Bali agreements;

Emphasizing the importance of our active participation to achieve the goals set in the Bali Action Plan whose agenda includes the key subjects to be negotiated and which will be concluded in 2009, in order to establish directions on the commitments to be taken on from 2013 when the first commitment period reaches termination, in regards to the pillars of mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology;

Welcoming the dialogue on climate change in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, called for by its Secretary General in September 2007, in which participated more than sixty Heads of State and Governments, many of them of our region;

Welcoming also the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) which recognizes the need to urgently address climate change through enhanced mitigation and adaptation, and congratulate the IPCC for the Peace Nobel Prize in 2007.

DECIDE:

1. Strengthen and ensure that within each country, due importance is placed to the implementation of effective policies and actions to develop effective mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change in development sectors of by all ILAC country members, as well as that successful programmes, national, subregional and regional plans on adaptation to climate change are dully shared.

2. To urge developed countries which by virtue of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities continue and increase their actions and adopt responsible policies to support adaptation in the countries of the Region and comply with their global commitments to mitigate their emissions of greenhouse gases.

3. To promote opportunities within the Kyoto Protocol, support initiatives which are presented in the framework of the Convention as it is the subject of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), as reported in the Bali Action Plan and the need to take actions increasingly ambitious in the light of recent scientific knowledge.

4. To internalize the outcome of the Thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali in December 2007, in particular its Bali Action Plan, which has initiated a process of a two-year negotiation, to multilaterally agree on a framework to respond to climate change after 2012, this process which will conclude in 2009, is based on four building blocks: mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing.

5. To endorse the other key results of the Bali Conference, such as promoting the work of the Ad-Hoc Working Group to get greater parties commitments to Annex I to the Kyoto Protocol, and the launching of the Fund for Adaptation.

6. Integrate measures into development policies, taking into account the social, economic and environmental vulnerability of the Region, particularly of the low-lying coastal and small island developing States with regard to the effects of climate change and to adapt to these effects.

7. Recognize the need to promote at the global level innovative financing mechanism that enable building capacities and facilitate the transfer of technology to undertake actions related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

8. Request to UNEP, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant international organizations, to continue this practice to strengthen regional capacity to participate actively in the process of implementing the Convention through cooperation activities in the long term.

9. To promote the negotiation process initiated by the Bali Action Plan and where feasible, to coordinate regional positions before and during the negotiating sessions.

10. Recognize the progress made by Latin America and the Caribbean in the submission of projects under the Clean Development Mechanism and encourage the exchange of experiences, tools and methodologies among countries in the Region and work with the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism and the Convention for a better regional distribution of these projects, particularly in small island developing countries in the Region.

11. To promote practical adaptation actions in the countries of the Region aimed at increasing their adaptative capacity to face the negative consequences of climate change, including a more effective disaster risk prevention and management; and to urge the working group on climate change resulting from this forum, the UNEP-regional office, the ITC, and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system and international financial organizations to work towards this end.

12. Encourage and support regional, subregional and national initiatives to conduct vulnerability assessments, improve data collection and implement measures of adaptation, as well as promoting dialogue on issues of common interest relating to the international negotiations, while promoting synergies among these initiatives at the regional level.

13. To promote education, public sensibilization and capacity building in relation to prevention and reduction of vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change in the Region, as well as to share information and meaningful experiences to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and the establishment of synergetic alliances among civil society and the governments.

Appendix 1 to Annex II

Proposed Structure for the Regional Action Plan 2008-2009

1. CLIMATE CHANGE

ILAC Area	Objective	Aim	Results Indicators	Specific Activities
It is linked to all ILAC areas	To support Region countries' efforts to implement the commitments arising from international agreements and meet the challenges of adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts	<p>To support the countries' efforts toward the development of technologies and capabilities for programs and studies on climate change issues</p> <p>To support countries at the stage of analysis of options and measures for the gradual elimination of GHG and CFCs, methyl bromide and other substances.</p> <p>To increase access to information technologies, options and opportunities for funding programs and projects for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.</p> <p>To support integrated and sectorial initiatives of the countries in the Region to combat climate change, including the promotion of energy efficiency, use of renewables and the sustainable management of natural resources, among others.</p>	<p>Latin American and Caribbean countries have national /sub-regional strategies and plans on climate action, emissions inventories and other reports and studies required by the UNFCCC.</p> <p>All Latin American and Caribbean countries in compliance with the provisions of the Montreal Protocol.</p> <p>Latin American and Caribbean countries with proposals for national programs reduction or limitation of GHGs in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol scope, the Bali Action Plan, and so on.</p> <p>Program to achieve 5-10% improvement in energy efficiency indicators in each of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.</p> <p>10% use of renewables.</p>	